

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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TAGS: GATT ETRD
SUBJ: GATT COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

REF: STATE 143907

SUMMARY. COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT MET JUNE 22 IN LOW-KEY, ONE-DAY MEETING. GATT SECRETARIAT DIRECTED TO PREPARE FACTUAL BACKGROUND NOTE ON NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES FOR DISCUSSION AT NEXT MEETING.

1. IN SPARSELY ATTENDED, SOMNOLENT SESSION, MOST LDC'S APPEARED TO READ FROM SAME SCRIPT AS PREVIOUS MEETING. GENERAL THEME WITH VARIATIONS EXPRESSED BY BRAZIL, INDIA, JAMAICA, NIGERIA, MALAYSIA, AND GHANA WAS DISAPPOINTMENT OVER CONTINUING LACK OF PROGRESS IN MTN, PARTICULARLY AFTER HIGH EXPECTATIONS OF LONDON SUMMIT, NEED FOR BRINGING S&D, ESPECIALLY PREFERENCES, INTO BODY OF GATT, DISPLEASURE AT THE FAILURE OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO ADHERE TO THE STANDBY PROVISION OF PART IV BY INCREASING RESTRICTIVE MEASURES AGAINST DEVELOPING COUNTRY EXPORTS, AND THE NEED FOR IMPROVED NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES UNDER PART IV. MALAYSIA LEVIED MEETING'S

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ONLY DIRECT COMPLAINT AT RECENTLY ANNOUNCED FRENCH TETE RESTRAINTS, NOTING THE GATT ILLEGALITY OF DISCRIMINATORY RESTRICTIONS UNDER ARTICLE XIX AND RHETORICALLY ASKING SECRETARIAT WHAT GATT WAS GOING TO DO ABOUT THE SITUATION. U.S. RECEIVED PERFUNCTORY CHIDING OVER INSISTENCE ON LDC CONTRIBUTIONS WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF TROPICAL PRODUCTS NEGOTIATIONS.

2. AS PER INSTRUCTIONS, WE OFFERED USUAL PLATITUDES, DOUBTED IF THERE HAD BEEN A NET INCREASE IN RESTRAINTS ON LDC EXPORTS, RESTATED IMPORTANCE U.S. ATTACHES TO MFN PRINCIPLE AND REPEATED U.S. POSITION ON LDC CONTRI-

BUTION IN THE MTN.

3. ON NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES UNDER PART IV, CHAIR'S (HAMZA OF EGYPT) RECOMMENDATION THAT GROUP DISCUSS NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES AND THAT THE SECRETARIAT PERPARE A BACKGROUND NOTE WAS IN DANGER OF DYING FROM LACK OF ATTENTION UNTIL BRAZIL (IMPROVEMENT OF EXISTING NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES NEED NOT CONFLICT WITH MTN NEGOTIATION OF NEW NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES) AND MALAYSIA (WE NEED MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON EACH RESTRICTIVE ITEM IN ORDER TO ESTIMATE TRADE IMPACT) RESCUED IT. OTHER LDC'S THEN SUPPORTED IDEA AND MALAYSIA SUGGESTED THAT GATT SECRETARIAT ALSO UNDERTAKE TO SUPPLY MORE INFORMATION (SUCH AS TRADE AND TARIFF DATA) THAN ORIGINALLY NOTIFIED ON EACH RESTRICTION.

4. EC SUPPORTED BY AUSTRALIA AND CANADA THOUGHT EXISTING NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES ADEQUATE, AND THAT CONSULTATION PROCEDURES UNDER PART IV AND OTHER DISPUTE SETTLEMENT ASPECTS OF THE GATT ASSURED THAT ANY IMPORTANT TRADE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROBLEMS WOULD BE CONSIDERED SOMEWHERE IN THE GATT. EC DISLIKED SELF-INCRIMINATORY ASPECTS OF MORE DETAILED PROCEDURES BUT CANADA THOUGHT CONFESSON "GOOD FOR THE SOUL." NORWAY REMINDED THE LDC'S THAT THE NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES UNDER PART IV ALLOWED AFFECTED PARTIES TO MAKE NOTIFICATIONS AND THAT THIS ASPECT OF THE PROCESS COULD BE BETTER UTILIZED. U.S. STATED OUR INTEREST IN IMPROVED NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES IN GENERAL AS EVIDENCED BY OUR PROPOSALS IN MTN BUT QUESTIONED NEED FOR GROUP TO DUPLICATE WORK OF NEGOTIATING ROUPS. GROUP DECIDED TO REVERT TO QUESTION AT NEXT MEETING ON THE BASIS OF A SECRETARIAT BACKGROUND NOTE SUMMARIZING NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES UNDER PART IV AND SUGGESTIONS MADE IN THE GROUP.

5. COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS OTHER THAN IMPLEMENTATION OF PART IV WERE SPARSE. LDC'S GAVE CUSTOMARY KUDOS TO GATT FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND A FEW LDC'S (MALAYSIA, JAMAICA, INDIA, TURKEY) ENCOURAGED INCREASING THE AMOUNT OF COVERAGE AND THE NUMBER OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES UNDER THE PROTOCOL FOR TRADE AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. CANADA NOTED THAT SECRETARIAT DOCUMENT ON MTN DID NOT

MENTION SECTORS AND ERRONEOUSLY STATED THAT FRAMEWORK GROUP HAD AN AGREED WORK PROGRAM. CANADA ALSO REPEATED ITS RESERVATION AGAINST EXPORT RESTRAINTS BEING CONSIDERED IN THE QR GROUP, WHILE SWITZERLAND STATED THAT IT IS TIME FOR THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO THINK OF CONTRIBUTIONS THEY CAN MAKE DURING THE COURSE OF THE MTN. UNCTAD OBSERVER MADE BRIEF, UNINFORMATIVE STATUS REPORT ON UNCTAD PROGRAM TO IMPLEMENT RESOLUTION ON ECONOMIC RELATIONS AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.SORENSEN

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